

February 17, 1988

Ms. Jeanie McFall
McFall & Associates
Route 1, Box 653
Ozark, MO 65721

Re: 2320 N. National

Dear Ms. McFall:

On February 16, 1988 personnel from this office smoke tested the City sanitary sewer behind your property at 2320 N. National. The City routinely smoke tests its sewer lines to find problem areas so they can be corrected. While doing this test we sometimes find problems with residential plumbing. At the address listed above, it appears that the drain in the bathtub is not properly trapped. This was confirmed by the fact that smoke was escaping into the house from the bathtub drain.

The fact that gases are entering the above residence from the sewer indicates that potentially serious health and safety hazards exist at that location. Some of the most common dangerous gases that exist in the sewer and their hazards (from the Manual of Instruction for Sewage Treatment Plant Operators) are:

Carbon Monoxide - Colorless, odorless, non-irritating. Flammable, explosive. Hemoglobin of the blood has a strong affinity for the gas, causing oxygen starvation in the tissues.

Hydrogen - Colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-poisonous. Flammable, explosive. Propagates flame rapidly. Acts mechanically to deprive the tissues of oxygen. A simple asphyxiant.

Methane - Colorless, odorless, non-poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Hydrogen Sulfide - "Rotten egg" odor in small concentrations. Colorless, poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Carbon Dioxide - Colorless, odorless, non-flammable. Not generally present in dangerous amounts unless there is a deficiency of oxygen.

2320 N. NATIONAL

Ms. Jeanie McFall
McFall & Associates
Page 2
February 17, 1988

There are, of course, many other substances that can be present in the sanitary sewer.

However, plumbing with all proper appurtenants and in good repair is designed to prevent sewer gas from venting back into the building. Steps should be taken to correct this problem as soon as possible.

If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call at 864-1924.

Yours truly,



Gene Pabst
Water Pollution Control Inspector III
Surveillance & Enforcement

GP:js

ccs: Robert R. Schaefer, P.E., Superintendent of Sanitary Services
Henry Cole, P.E., Sanitary Engineer
Randy Lyman, Sewer Surveillance and Billing Supervisor
Darrell Whitt, 2320 N. National